

# Brian Hasler

State Representative • District 77

## 1999 Session of the Indiana General Assembly

### State budget provides tax cuts, funding for education

The new state budget will make a very real difference in the lives of many Hoosiers. Some of the highlights include:

*Program Funding*

- **Public education:** Statewide total formula funding increase of an average of 4.7 percent in calendar years 2000 and 2001, with minimum guarantees of funding increases of at least 2.5%. Funding was increased for both at-risk and academic honors programs. Local schools and libraries also received \$76 million in technology funding.
- **CHOICE:** \$5 million increase per year in funding for home health care for the elderly
- **Higher education:** appropriations were increased by 7.0 percent in fiscal year 2000 and 4.7 percent in 2001
- **Vocational education:** incentives for school corporations to provide programs in which high employment demand exists
- **A new \$50 million 21st Century Research and Technology Fund** that will promote high-tech industries located in Indiana
- **Social services:** Funding for the seriously mentally ill is increased by \$3 million in 2000 and \$6 million in 2001. MRDD programs will receive an additional \$9 million in funding.

*Savings to Taxpayers*

- **Elimination of county welfare fund and county welfare administration funds** from local property taxes (two-year savings: \$67.6 million)
- **Elimination of inventory tax for 87 percent of farms and businesses** (two-year savings: \$129.6 million)



Rep. Hasler during a House committee meeting.

### Hasler tobacco, workforce development initiatives passed into law

**Tobacco** -- Indiana soon will be able to take several major steps designed to reduce youth tobacco use. I authored House Enrolled Act 1104, which gives the state the authority to increase its regulation of tobacco sales and advertising.

Indiana has one of the highest youth tobacco usage rates in the country, showing it is far too easy for teen-agers to acquire tobacco products. The new enforcement measures will make it much more difficult for kids to buy tobacco products.



Rep. Hasler with Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

The legislation, which was agreed to both by anti-smoking advocates and tobacco retailers, takes several steps designed to reduce youth tobacco use. It bans billboard advertising of all tobacco products, removes tobacco vending machines from areas accessible by minors and prohibits anyone under 18 from entering a tobacco specialty store. House Enrolled Act 1104 also contains provisions to punish retailers and clerks who sell tobacco to people less than 18 years of age.

We know this legislation is not going to prevent every teen-ager from smoking or chewing, but it is an important first step. By making it more difficult to buy tobacco, many kids will never take up the habit or will give it up. And that is our ultimate goal.

**Workforce development** -- House Enrolled Act 1652 will incorporate into state statute the goals and objectives of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

It has often been said that the best social program ever created is a good paying job. This legislation takes that belief to heart by creating a statewide support mechanism so that Hoosier workers can continue to improve their skills and opportunities in the workplace.

The legislation provides \$6.5 million for incumbent worker training. This money will help individual workers gain new skills that are necessary in a modern global economy.

We cannot look at economic development as simply the task of convincing new employers to settle in the state. While that is important, we must also have skilled workers to support our existing industry. This money will help working Hoosiers and the companies that employ them help themselves by committing to new skill development.

The legislation also creates a "One-Stop System" to provide information and access to a wide array of job training, education, and employment services. Workers in Indiana will be able to get preliminary skills assessments, obtain job search and placement assistance, find market information, and receive help with many other employment issues.

#### Capital Projects Vanderburgh County

- Angel Mounds Restoration -- \$530,000
- Evansville State Hospital -- \$29 million
- Southwind Maritime Road/Rail Infrastructure -- \$2.7 million

*University of Southern Indiana*

- Support of New Harmony historic sites -- \$400,000
- Science Education Building -- \$12.6 million
- Wellness & Fitness Center -- \$4.2 million

*Ivy Tech State College*

- Technology Center - A & E-- \$1 million

*Build Indiana Projects*

- Emporia Project -- \$550,000
- Community Action Program Day Care-- \$60,000
- Evansville ARC Improvements-- \$325,000
- Evansville Coalition for the Homeless -- \$5,000 photocopier
- Knight Township VFD -- \$3,000 defibrillators
- Old Courthouse Preservation Society -- \$90,000 improvements
- Private Industry Council -- \$100,000 capital for human services projects
- Rivers Bend Playhouse -- \$50,000 renovation & expansion
- Tri-State Food Bank -- \$25,000 racking for warehouses
- United Caring Shelters Renovations -- \$75,000
- Vanderburgh County 4-H Fairgrounds -- \$72,000 drainage project
- YWCA Renovations-- \$25,000

#### How to Contact Representative Brian Hasler

##### RESIDENCE

756 S. Rotherwood  
Evansville, IN 47714  
e-mail: R77@ai.org

##### LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9842



Rep. Brian Hasler

200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

Call the Statehouse Toll-Free  
1-800-382-9842

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Indiana House of  
Representatives

House publications available

The following publications can be requested free of charge from my Statehouse office by calling toll-free 1-800-382-9842:

*Relax . . .* -- This informational booklet for senior citizens discusses a variety of issues, from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

*Higher Education* -- A 24-page publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

*Guide to State Agencies* -- This booklet details various agencies within Indiana state government, listing phone numbers, functions and general areas of responsibility for each of the state agencies.

*Hoosier Fun and Facts* -- Designed for elementary school-aged children, this information and activity book teaches students about their state through a combination of text, puzzles and other educational activities.

Is the address label on this mailing correct?

Please check the address label on this mailing for accuracy. If there are any errors or if you are receiving duplicate mailings, please contact my office at 1-800-382-9842. Every effort will be made to correct the mistake.

I appreciate your assistance in keeping the mailing list updated. This will ultimately result in more efficient delivery and substantial savings to taxpayers across the state.

State Phone Numbers

State Information . . . . .	1-800-457-8283
Indiana House . . . . .	1-800-382-9842
Indiana Senate. . . . .	1-800-382-9467
Governor's Office. . . . .	317-232-4567
Secretary of State . . . . .	317-232-6531
Motor Vehicles. . . . .	317-233-6000
Natural Resources. . . . .	1-800-622-4931
Utility Regulatory. . . . .	1-800-851-4268
State Tourism . . . . .	1-800-289-6646
Department of Correction. .	1-800-680-5889
Department of Education . .	317-232-6611
Department of Health . . . .	317-233-1325
Family & Social Services . .	317-233-4454

Hasler authors legislation protecting tenants

House Enrolled Act 1653 will prevent landlords from taking the law into their own hands when dealing with a tenant with whom they have a grievance. I have worked for the past three sessions to modernize Indiana laws designed to protect the rights of renters.

This represents the most significant update in landlord-tenant relations since the original statute was enacted in 1881. By passing this act the General Assembly is letting tenants around the state know that their rights to safety in their home shall be guaranteed under the law.

The act prohibits "self-help" practices engaged in by some landlords, including changing locks, removing doors and shutting off utilities.

The vast majority of landlords in our state do not participate in these unethical activities when they have a disagreement with a tenant. There have been cases, however, when landlords did undertake these actions and tenants have been hurt or even killed. We must protect the rights of renters to be safe within their homes.

The act also clarifies the situations under which a landlord may seize a tenant's personal property as a lien against the payment of rent. It also speeds up the process for both tenants and landlords to come before a court of law for possessory actions.

This act is a major step forward in the fight to protect working families and the poor in Indiana.

**Church Arsons** -- The crime of arson is now a Class B felony if it involves any structure used for religious worship. The legislation also makes it a Class B felony burglary to break into and enter a structure used for religious worship with the intent of committing a felony.

*Hoosiers will save  
\$672 million over the next  
two years in tax cuts*

- Homeowners: a new income tax deduction for property taxes up to \$2500
- Senior citizens: an income tax deduction increase from \$1000 to \$1500 and a property tax deduction increase from \$1000 to \$2000
- Dependent children: an increase in the income tax deduction from \$1000 to \$2500
- Small businesses: the property tax “add-back” was repealed so business owners can deduct the amount of their property taxes from their state income taxes
- Renters: an increase in the income tax deduction from \$1500 to \$2000
- Long-term care health insurance: an income tax deduction for the premiums paid for long-term health care insurance
- Earned income tax credit: a new refundable credit for working parents making less than \$12,000 (replaces deduction)